

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4183

To direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on disability and pension benefits provided to members of the National Guard and members of reserve components of the Armed Forces by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 13, 2019

Mr. KHANNA (for himself, Mrs. LURIA, and Mrs. RADEWAGEN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on disability and pension benefits provided to members of the National Guard and members of reserve components of the Armed Forces by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Identifying Barriers
5 and Best Practices Study Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. COMPTROLLER GENERAL STUDY ON DISABILITY**
2 **AND PENSION BENEFITS PROVIDED TO MEM-**
3 **BERS OF THE NATIONAL GUARD AND MEM-**
4 **BERS OF RESERVE COMPONENTS OF THE**
5 **ARMED FORCES BY THE DEPARTMENT OF**
6 **VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 36 months after
8 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller
9 General of the United States shall complete a study on
10 disability and pension benefits provided to members of the
11 National Guard and members of reserve components of
12 the Armed Forces by the Department of Veterans Affairs.
13 In conducting such study, the Comptroller General shall
14 review, for the period beginning on January 1, 2008, and
15 ending on December 31, 2018, each of the following:

16 (1) The number of members of the National
17 Guard and the number of members of reserve com-
18 ponents of the Armed Forces who received disability
19 compensation or pension provided by the Depart-
20 ment of Veterans Affairs.

21 (2) A comparison of each of the following be-
22 tween veterans who served in the National Guard or
23 reserve components and veterans who served in the
24 regular components of the Armed Forces:

25 (A) The percentage of each group of such
26 veterans with service-connected disabilities.

1 (B) The number of veterans in each group
2 with each disability rating.

3 (C) The number of veterans in each group
4 with a service-connected disability, including the
5 number of each of the following types of such
6 veterans in each group:

7 (i) Pilots.

8 (ii) Veterans who served in the special
9 forces.

10 (iii) Veterans who participated in the
11 Personnel Reliability Program.

12 (iv) Veterans who underwent diving or
13 flight physicals as a regular component of
14 their service in the Armed Forces and who
15 have a muscular-skeletal or mental health
16 condition.

17 (D) The number of total claims for dis-
18 ability compensation and pension submitted, ap-
19 proved, and disapproved for each group of vet-
20 erans.

21 (3) An identification of common barriers for
22 members of the National Guard and members of re-
23 serve components in obtaining disability benefits
24 under the laws administered by the Secretary of Vet-
25 erans Affairs, including barriers relating to docu-

1 mentation of injuries incurred while serving, such as
2 line of duty letters.

3 (b) REPORTS.—

4 (1) PRELIMINARY REPORT.—Not later than 18
5 months after the date of the enactment of this Act,
6 the Comptroller General shall submit to the Commit-
7 tees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House
8 of Representatives a preliminary report on the find-
9 ings of the study required by subsection (a).

10 (2) FINAL REPORT.—Upon completion of the
11 study, the Comptroller General shall submit to such
12 Committees a final report on such study.

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